

REMARKS

The last Office Action of February 2, 2006, has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of the instant application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 7-9, and 1-14 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 13, and 14 have been amended. No claims have been added or canceled. No amendment to the specification has been made. No fee is due.

Claims 1-5, 7-9, and 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,247,450 to Clark et al.

Clark discloses an electronic timing system for glassware-forming machines. Clark discloses a master machine controller 10 separate from the individual section machine control units (see FIG. 1). Claim 1, as well as the other independent claims, clearly recite that the central controller of the present invention is integrated in one or more of the glass processing units (Claim 1) or drives (claims 4, 7, and 9), thereby obviating the need for a separate central controller. Paragraph [0039] of the instant application clearly states and Fig. 2 clearly shows that the central controller R is integrated with the drives AN. With this arrangement, the operation of the entire glass forming machine can now be controlled from a single drive unit.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 4, 7, and 9 to more clearly define "processing units" as "glass processing units" to distinguish from data manipulation systems. As defined in paragraph [0014] of the original specification, "[t]he processing units are devices for carrying out the glass formation, whereby the various functions of the processing units can be started by way of a cam functionality. Each section has individual cam functions, whereby the cam functions of identical sections can also be implemented identically. A processing unit is, for example, a pneumatic or electrical device for closing and/or opening a mold designed to form the glass." The term "cam", as used in the instant specification does therefore not refer to "Computer-Aided

Manufacturing", as proposed by the Examiner, but instead has the ordinary meaning as used by the artisan in the mechanical arts.

Independent claims 1, 4, 7, 9 as well as dependent claims 13, 14 have also been amended to more particularly recite that the integrated bus is a serial bus. The term integrated bus system is used to indicate a bus system that is of the same type throughout. This approach also simplifies the operation of the glass forming machine. An exemplary serial bus is the Profibus or a bus based on Ethernet protocol. See paragraph [0015] of the specification.

In other words, unlike Clark's timing system, which employs five signaling wires connected by hardware, the present invention sets forth a software-based system using, for example, a bus based on Ethernet protocol.

For the reasons set forth above, it is applicant's contention that Clark et al. neither teaches nor suggests the features of the present invention, as recited in claims 1 and 9.

As for the rejection of the retained dependent claims, these claims depend on claims 1, 4, 7, and 9, respectively, share their presumably allowable features, and therefore it is respectfully submitted that these claims should also be allowed.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is considered patentably differentiated over the prior art of record and believed to be in immediate conditions for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are thus respectfully requested.

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Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the

undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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